

THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

4001 Harding Road Nashville, TN 37205

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Service Club spearheads Haitian relief efforts

Opportunities to
donate online through
MBA homepage

By Michael Seitz
Features Editor

MBA has actively responded to the devastating earthquake in Haiti by working to raise money and supplies. Already the senior class held a Big Red Day, and the Student Council sponsored a 3-on-3 basketball tournament, raising together over \$800 for Haitian relief efforts.

The MBA Service Club has also set in place numerous ways to help donate to the cause. MBA has opened <http://www.mbahaitifund.org/> for donations to Doctors Without Borders, with a goal of raising \$5,000 to aid victims, and the club will also be donating through Partners in Health at <http://www.standwithhaiti.org/>.

Additionally, boxes will be set up around campus for PROJECT C.U.R.E., accepting donations of first aid and hygiene supplies to help with preparation for deliveries of medical relief to Haiti.

Both the MBA Service Club and the Martin Luther King Society are donating money they have raised to Haitian relief organizations.

Other projects around Nashville are also benefiting from Service Club funds. Cooper Thomas submitted an essay about Operation Smile, and Bennett Cain wrote



Richard Wall collects needed medical supplies from fellow seniors Sam Denney and Gaige Bolden. The Service Club, active every day of the week this year, has organized a handful of projects for the community to focus on. Photo by Pat Killian

about the Nations Ministry Center, so the MBA Service Club has made a \$500 donation to each organization. The Operation

Smile money will go toward Haiti relief, supporting a medical team that will provide surgical care in Haiti, and the Nations Min-

istry will use the money to help serve Nashville's refugees and immigrants through

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Big Red football concludes memorable decade

By Nathan Dewitt
Staff Writer

The 2009 MBA football season concluded a decade of remarkable moments on the field. Because MBA's football teams were so electrifying during the past ten years (91 wins and four state titles), it is difficult to compile a list of the top ten moments from the 2000's. There were blowouts, overtimes, championships, and lasting memories. Let's take a look at the best of the best.

10. MBA 23, Trinity 21 (2006)

Although it was only the second game of the season, MBA's roster was already injury-plagued. Two more season-ending injuries to senior starters during this game didn't help the Big Red's cause. The team showed its resilience on the road, though,

and beat Trinity on a last second missed field goal by the Shamrocks. The win was the team's second in as many weeks versus a Kentucky opponent.

9. MBA 31, Maplewood 28 (2009)

A highly touted Maplewood team rolled down West End looking to snap MBA's 14-game home win streak. Trailing 28-17 with five minutes left in the game, the Big Red had a 1-1 start to the season staring them in the face. But a quick touchdown, a flawlessly executed onside kick, and another touchdown led to the dramatic win against a very athletic Panthers team.

8. MBA 21, Moeller 6 (2008)

Graduation hit MBA hard in 2007, and many people expected a drop-off for

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Students and players celebrate another win for the Big Red. Over the past decade, the football team compiled an impressive resume of state championships, undefeated seasons, and national rankings. Photo courtesy of Mr. Jamie Tillman

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THE BELL RINGER

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Red, White, and...Brown?

By Aaron Lutkowitz
Staff Opinions Writer

An A-rating from the National Rifle Association would seem fitting for a successful candidate in the Southeast, or a pickup driver might win a political seat in the Midwest, perhaps. A nude photo for *Cosmo's* 1982 "America's Sexiest Man" contest could pass in looser cultures. But in the passionately "blue" state of Massachusetts, especially a senate seat dominated by Kennedys, the victory of Republican Scott Brown, who possesses all of the afore-mentioned qualities, shocked many. As he takes over his self-proclaimed "people's seat" from the man who fought for government-backed healthcare almost his entire political career, the bitter irony for Democrats losing their supermajority in the Senate is profound. Nonetheless, the outcome of this election should teach both political parties some important lessons for the 2010 midterm elections.

For Republicans: do not become moderates. With 49% Independents and only 35% Republicans in Massachusetts, a lay observer would question Scott Brown's conservative campaign message. Yet the beauty of his strategy lay in its simplicity and its consistently conservative tone. Turning far to the right on popular, opposition

issues, namely opposition to Democratic healthcare reform, ballooning deficits, and soft foreign policy, while simultaneously de-emphasizing his less popular conservative positions, such as opposition to gay marriage, gave Brown an edge.

This lesson can be applied to the past year in politics. In the 23rd New York district election, national Republican leaders supported a moderate over the more conservative primary candidate, and the divisions over moderation within the party gave the Democrats the win. In 2008, McCain's passive, moderate campaign proved no match for the liberal avalanche of Obamanism. Republicans have every advantage in these midterm elections as incumbent Democrats in Washington appear increasingly distant from the voices of Americans. Offering a strong, conservative message, as opposed to "Democrats-lite," is the key to success. When Brown's supporters chanted "Yes, we can," it was a symbol that they had learned the message of strong partisan views from President Obama's campaign.

For Democrats: stop being complacent. Republicans suffered from the hubris of their election victories from 2000 until 2004, only to lose touch with their voters and give up control to the Democrats for the past four years. Democrats appear to be falling into the same traps. Coakley, Brown's opponent for the Senate seat, lost because she thought the election

finished upon winning the primaries (a few jabs at the Red Sox the week of the election did not help her chances either). Democrats call her "choak-ley," but many of these same Democrat leaders in Washington neglected to give stump speeches for her.

Perhaps more importantly, Democrats in general are not procuring the grassroots support that made them victorious only a year ago. While Coakley lost touch with the individual voters, Brown's race brought many disgruntled citizens from other states to assist in his campaign. Democratic candidates should pay close attention to the failures of Coakley and her campaign (or lack thereof).

For Obama: triangulate. Bill Clinton shares many similarities with Barack Obama. Both won their first presidential elections on a message of *change*. Both claimed to be the first black president. Considering the major gains of Republicans in the 1994 midterm elections, by the end of 2010, the current and the former Democrat president will also both share the burden of working with the opposition. Bill Clinton accepted the majority of Republicans in Congress under the mantra of being "the great triangulator" of a new, moderate middle way. He then passed some very successful legislation, working with Republican congressional leadership. Barack Obama must recognize the new position of the opposition and work with this opposition if he expects to bring this country back to health and civility.

New ruling is supreme mistake

By Jesse Suh
Staff Writer

The recent Supreme Court decision on *Citizens United vs. Federal Elections Commission* may meet the approval of First Amendment advocates who oppose any government intervention in freedom of discussion on an ideological level, especially as it relates to elections, but, practically, the decision could have harmful consequences for the electoral process that are more tangible than any ideological objection can be.

Citizens United vs. Federal Elections Commission was a court case between Citizens United, a non-profit, conservative organization which was seeking to advertise *Hillary: The Movie*, and the Federal Elections Commission. Initially, the Court ruled that under the McCain-Feingold reform of campaign financing, a union or a profit or non-profit corporation could not provide funding for any political advertisement from its own direct treasury or broadcast the advertisement on television within a certain amount of time before an election.

Hillary: The Movie was deemed to be a form of electioneering communication that sought to

influence the opinions of voters due to the film's scathing criticism of Hillary Clinton's bid for the presidency.

The court case was, however, reintroduced in the Supreme Court for further discussion, and this second time the Supreme Court ruled for *Citizens United* on a 5-4 decision split across ideological lines, with Justice Kennedy being the swing vote. The ruling was based on the interpretation of a corporation or union being equivalent to a person, thereby gaining protection humans enjoy under the First Amendment.

In a practical sense, though, the Supreme Court's acceptance of a corporation as a human being is nonsense and an illogical way of basing the decision. As a dissenter, Justice Stevens stated that the interpretation of a corporation as a human is loosely a "conceit" and does not entail that a human and a corporation should be treated equivalently. Though corporations do enjoy fundamental freedoms under the first amendment, they are not treated as a human being in terms of being able to vote or run for office. Therefore, arbitrarily determining that corporations can now directly attack or support a candidate goes against 200 years of preventing corporations from directly financing campaigns.

The Supreme Court's precedent-

setting interpretation has the potential for destroying the integrity of elections because the ruling could lead to future rulings that give corporations and unions the ability to finance a campaign out of their direct treasury.

Such a wide concession to unchecked, plutocratic forces would be extremely harmful for elections because a company's Board could presumably support a candidate with all of its resources even if the board's views are not consistent with the views of everyone in the company, who may have contributed to the resources available to the company. Greater involvement of corporations in the electoral process would effectively make the process unequal because the support and resources of large corporations would benefit a candidate considerably more than those of individuals.

Ultimately, when weighing the pros and cons of the decision, one must decide whether a nebulous defense of free speech, substantiated by an arbitrary definition, is preferable to the unlimited funding of political ads. *Citizens United vs. Federal Elections Commission* allows that companies can "express their free speech," and this could lead to direct corporate funding of campaigns, the consequence being the drowning of individual participation in the democratic sphere.

Mathletes run train in city-wide competitions

By Paul Moore
Staff Writer

The Big Red Math Team is having another successful year in the Nashville Interscholastic Math League, in which twenty-one schools compete in six different subjects.

These competitions are important for several reasons. First, they encourage good

math students to study beyond their class time; second, they reward those students who have developed their skills and don't mind taking a risk; third, they bring quite a bit of attention to a school like MBA, which has an enviable record of success in the competitions. MBA's Mathletes spend many hours in preparation for these events. They spend weekends taking the tests, and their efforts do not go unnoticed.

The team competed in two city contests over the months of November and December. Our Mathletes were very competitive in four of the six subjects. Top placers included Tom Bu with 1st and Hunter Tidwell with 3rd in Algebra, Karthik Sastry with 2nd and Zach Chen with 5th in Statistics, Joseph Scherrer with 2nd and Stephen Bedard with 3rd in Pre-Calculus, and Sam Hurd with 4th and Chris Habermann with

7th in Geometry.

The team is doing well and has much confidence heading into the remaining contests of the year. MBA currently is leading the year-long competition in the subjects of Algebra II and Statistics and is close behind in Pre-Calculus and Geometry.

The next city contest will be held at Centennial High School on Thursday, February 4.

Teacher designs new course with student aid

By Karthik Sastry
Staff Writer

Starting in the fall of 2010, the Science Department will offer Human Anatomy and Physiology as an elective for seniors. HAP is designed to be an in-depth study of the human body, with a strong emphasis on the practical applications in the medical field.

Mrs. Wendy Holmgren, who will teach the class, has been working throughout this year to develop the curriculum. Senior Matt Bracy ('10) has been assisting her in the process, providing a student's perspective on the course content. An honors course, HAP will examine each system in the human body in even greater detail than the AP Biology course. Lectures will look at the role of each system in the context of diseases and other factors that disrupt the proper functioning of the human body.

The laboratory component of the class will help reinforce connections between the coursework and the practice of medicine. Mrs. Holmgren is hoping to integrate technology that will help students analyze muscle activity with electromyography (EMG measurements), as well as the heart's electrical signals (ECG), and the brain's electrical activity (EEG). She is also considering the possibility of having students certified in first aid and CPR. At the end of the year, the class will finish with the dissection of a cat.

The course will also have guest lecturers to further enrich the learning experience. Matt Bracy hopes that the class will feature many distinguished speakers, including Dr. Owen McGuinness, who teaches human physiology at Vanderbilt Medical School.



Matt has been an important resource for Mrs. Holmgren in creating the course. He has reviewed, chapter by chapter, the




Matt Bracy ('10) examines next year's Human Anatomy and Physiology text. Matt worked with Mrs. Wendy Holmgren to design the course. Photo by Pat Killian

textbook for the course and has noted its strengths and weaknesses. Matt is a bit disappointed that he did not have the op-


portunity to take the class himself, but he is happy to have been part of its design.



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Seniors continue to put rest of school to shame

By Will Henry
Entertainment Editor

Second semester of the seniors' final year has begun, but the senior's dreams just keep getting bigger. For instance, Alex Snow has decided he wants to become a minister and has sent in his application to Presbyterian College. What a righteous soul.

In athletics, seniors are providing the necessary leadership to win championships. Captains Seth Akers-Campbell, Jack Murfee, and Pat Killian, along with Lee Grubbs, Rob Higham, Shep Patterson, Tyler Leroy, and Mikey Reid are dominating in the pool. Tyler says, "We've got a great shot at state."

In basketball, John Lowe continues to be a crowd favorite and a force to be reckoned with on the bench.

In some non-TSSAA competitions, DATREFO, composed of Aaron Lutkowitz, Steven Gaitens, and Kyle Brantley, won the 3 on 3 basketball tourney. They took down 2 other senior teams (Fitz Lassing, Jackson Roberts, Mac Hudson; Jordan

Stauffer, Jordan Herring, Kevin Carr) en route to victory. Kyle wants, "to thank Alvin Kim for giving us the inspiration to dominate anyone in our path."

Many college decisions have already been made. Joshua Liang will attend Penn, Mike Z and Seth Akers-Campbell are off to Brown, Pat Killian to Yale, Jack Murfee to UVA, Thompson Barr to Davidson, Tee Griscom to Furman, Campbell Haynes to Dartmouth, Naveen Chadavalada and Campbell Kinnard to Wash U, and Mitchell Lukens to the University of Wyoming.

In breaking foreign news, Wesley Wilson and Thomas Moore are going to Oxford. Thomas Moore says, "I'm studying Classics and he's studying PPE (Politics, Philosophy, and Economics). My subject is clearly superior. So there." Deathmatch in the quad to settle this one?

Speaking of Thomas, rumors have it that he has a half-English, half-German, opera-singing love interest. Yet to be confirmed.

Benjamin Miller recently joined the senior class.

Dalton Fouts received a text from a



Kyle Brantley ('10) and Nathan Dewitt ('10) keep it classy while running commentary for Big Red basketball. Photo courtesy of Mr. Jamie Tillman

Shore on spring break to party with the Situation, Holden Mobley had an awesome time dancing with Karmen Linn, Daniel Todd is like a ghost in a blizzard, Pat Killian flew to France to visit Sara while she was on Winterim, and Jackson Roberts does not hold grudges.

In other news, Neil Ryan and Ben Mecklenborg, who recently attended Pauly D's DJ set, are planning to go to Jersey

Refreshed, freshmen ball every chance they get

By McLean Hudson
Staff Writer

As you may, or may not, have noticed, we're back in school. Over the break, freshmen traveled far and wide, with vacation sites ranging from Mexico, to Hawaii, to Florida, to Colorado.

Almost as widely ranging were the presents the freshmen of MBA received over the holidays. While a common theme in gifts seemed to follow the Xbox 360 and/or Call of Duty, PS3 or iPod trend, many of us were not quite as thrilled. There have been reports of elaborately wrapped beef-jerky, mini-Tabasco bottles, and a very used sock inside of an iPod box (the iPod was

found later).

As school continues to pick up the pace, so do events around campus. On MLK Day, the freshmen were the best represented class of MBA in the annual MLK Day march.

On the same day was the student council three-on-three basketball tournament, the proceeds of which went to help the Haiti earthquake survivors. While no freshmen team was able to make a legitimate run for gold, a team comprised of Henry Lynch, Jack Emerson, and Keith Gambill (8th-grader) did take down the team of Morris Eguakam, Brooks Best, and Wilson Johnson - boom roasted.

In the unpredictable world of church

basketball, the unbeatable Covenant powerhouse was taken down by Mark Lowe, Henry Lynch, and the rest of the Thunder-Chickens. Despite a promising first half, First Pres fell apart and lost to Westminster, making the latter the only remaining undefeated team in the league.

As usual, the freshmen class is well represented in the varsity sports. The unparalleled swim team is wrapping up its regular season, greatly aided by its 9th graders, headed up by NAC swimmers Tate Ramsden, Andrew Dobbs, Wesley Nealy, Matt McPherson, and Faulkner Werkhaven.

The freshman basketball team continues a successful season, despite a recent loss to Brentwood High's freshman team.

A number of ninth-graders are also hard at work preparing for upcoming seasons of baseball, lacrosse, and even football.

Congratulations to all of you, because for once we're not leading the high school in demerits. In fact, we currently have fewer than any other class. That will probably change, however, when Mr. Schumacher decides to make the grueling walk to Ball to turn in his demerits.

Remember to wash your hands, because if you don't, you'll get a cold, sniff a lot, and Dr. Batten will find you. Peace and blessings.

Juniors make friends through Chatroulette

By Andrew Powell
News Editor

I once got a fortune cookie that said, "It Tastes Sweet," and I knew it could be talking about one thing only... the junior class. Let's get a glimpse of what these fine fellows have been up to.

Over Winter Break, Harrison Matthews went to Australia and stayed with the man... the legend... the Pie. He had the fabulous (cf. Mr. Kelly's class) opportunity to wear Hunter's skinny jeans and weird Australian clothing.

Will "da stats-man" Granbery visited the Coca-Cola factory in Atlanta and tasted 80 different flavors from around the world. He proceeded to write about it very enthusiastically on Facebook.

Matthew Johnson went to Colorado and shredded the slope, nah mean? He, Fish, and T-markham wondered the whole time where Woldn was, until it dawned on them that he was still in Nashville. He is also an honorary member of Leland Howe's frat in the bayou.

Pasha D spent his Christmas in India,

and let's just say he didn't have a particularly solid time...

C-Beezy, whoever that is, went to "nawleans with his broski Cedric Smiff." More recently, he exploited the modern legal system to get four, thirty pound boxes of candy. Roll Red.

Mike Scotty Peters, despite being lost in foreign lands, maintains his dominating streak of news appearances, which by now is too many to count... unless your name is Will Norton and can calculate such things with a limited edition bamboo slide rule. Mike is still running, and hopes to lock down some All-England status by the time his exchange is over. Ford Altenbern, Michael's P.I.C. at Eton, informs me he has been looking for Emma Watson. I think you're looking in the wrong place, Ford.

Nick Kohler is still engaged... maybe? Facebook tells me otherwise, but he's still wearing his ring...

Alex "my name is Elic" Hunt makes an official statement on behalf of the christ-ballers: "The Cov. churchball team has been off to a slow start, but we are not known for our regular season play. We will be ready

come playoff time."

Many juniors have started making their summer plans by applying for exchange or one of the generous Wilson Language Grants, while Mason Foote is working on his bod and singing.

Hayes McCord, undercover reporter, informs me Clay Garrett hasn't gotten any action in a while.

VEast "just finished ballin'" at the farm with Cody. They didn't kill anything, except a blade of grass or two.

The Wyse one saw a leprechaun on chatroulette. Chad Hoback says, "What's Chatroulette?" Mr. Kelly says, "I'm a leprechaun."

In other news, Mrs. Bakken turned down Will McCaskill's friend request.

And for the grand finale, Will Baker is enjoying Coach Lanier's class, Bill Shofner now goes by William, Stan Rozar is tall, Austin Lucas is... somewhere, Devin McClain is playing some good basketball, Alex Blanton is the same as always, Miles Anderson is... also somewhere, Hayden Snyder still has 53 demerits, Will Gormley is chillin' with Andrew Hallahan, Zach



Mason Foote shows off his bod. "ALL THE WAYY TURNTTT UPPP."

Turner is Zach Turner, Lee Srebnick is lookin' good, Kyle Meadows is 6-4, 350, and Brian "J/Tha Rook/Webster/Perfection" Roberson is "goin' 2 tha studio 2mara."

Sophomores swamped with work, struggling socially

By Joe Scherrer
Staff Writer

A few weeks ago, I was confronted by **Will Stewart**, who confided that my column was "good, but needs some work. Lots. Why don't you just GET it? Arggggh!"

Yes, the amount of news has been steadily dwindling here on the Hill — **Tim Bulso**, once a happy and interesting individual, recently replied to a request for news with only the words, "My life is boring." At this point, I was both fed up with the lack of news and increasingly aware of the fact that I was desperately in need of a sense of humor. Needless to say, Will was recruited to gather "news."

A major source of stress is the upcoming sophomore research paper, the rite of passage and excuse for misery rapidly approaching in about a month. The project involves picking a topic that seems the easiest or most interesting, like the one on hippies, finding books that have no relation to the topic, bumbling around in the library while trying to look busy copying pages from reference books, typing those pages into NoodleBib (almost as good a name as Whipple Hill), and then writing the entire paper the night before. **MacIn Davis**, eager to note his progress, said that he is "reading a book." He forgot the title, but it has something to do with lightsabers and fish.

When asked how much progress he

had made, an anonymous student said, "I'd be reading, but I've had this really bad case of COD flu recently, and I haven't been able to do anything. Plus I forgot how to read." Sounds like things are going smoothly.

Another topic of interest: Winter Formal, an excuse for Harpeth Hall to have a social event. **Karthik Sastry** says he's already been asked by the entire Harpeth Hall class, his pet lizard, and a tree, but "none of them were in my range." The legendary **Danwhal** has also been sighted wearing a button-down shirt, in an obvious attempt to attract a date.

On to sports: in football, the entire debate team beat FAST in a scoreless clobbering, 56-0. According to coach **Kelly Haselton**, "the Chaos Defense stopped them cold" (evidently some sort of cultish, debate inside joke). When asked about his opinion on the matter, **Zach Chen** shouted "BAM FA!" and started sticking needles in a squishy, grey stress ball shaped like a brain.

Rhett Hooper says he won something a long time ago, but he forgot what it was.

Zach Chen has yet to have his Chinese Dumpling Feast, which caused him to go crazy and drill holes in all the rulers in the research room.

Matt Anderson, after complaining about how every book he's read in English is about death, immediately wrote a story about death and wants to publish it.



Henry and Chris get down like the economy. The sophomores have been working hard to generate enough news for a full column. Photo courtesy of Mr. Jamie Tillman

Thomas Forcum has been reported to be awake during Latin class, but this rumor still needs to be confirmed, say people familiar with the matter. His brother **Robert** has the same problem with wakefulness in another Latin class.

Nate Greene says that he "ate food." Indeed, food is becoming an increasingly important topic here on the Hill. While

more adventurous individuals have been inventing new combinations of SAGE food, like the SAGE milkshake or SAGE chili-cheese-ranch-bacon explosion fries, others just take pleasure in the simple things, like hummus-cucumber sandwiches (on bun, of course) or hearty beef stew. **Hunter Woolwine**, however, feels the need to whine and says "I want Italian sausage."

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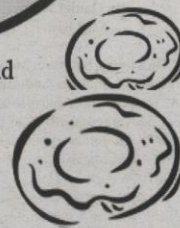
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Service Club organizes for Haiti, local charities

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their West Nashville Refugee Center. In addition, the King Society donated \$400 to the African Leadership Program and \$400 to the Red Cross Haitian Relief efforts.

The Service Club is continuing to expand and now takes part in service projects nearly every school night and Saturday morning, benefiting from outstanding senior leadership.

On Monday nights, seniors Wiley

Hunt, Campbell Kinnard, Eric Mace, and Matt Bracy organize Hispanic Achievers.

Senior Rob Higham and junior Rob Barnes spearhead Burundi Refugee tutoring on Tuesday nights. Through the African Leadership program, they teach English to high school and elementary school students. In addition, they work with the Nations Ministry Center in after-school youth tutoring programs for middle-school students.

Each Thursday, senior Turner Hen-

derson leads a group of volunteers to tutor underprivileged students at the Preston Taylor Homes.

On Tuesday and Thursday nights, senior Shep Patterson directs the Special Olympics swim team at the JCC pool, and senior Ben Sutter organizes Special Olympics bowling events.

On the first Saturday of each month, around 40 student volunteers serve lunch to the homeless patrons at the Soup Kitchen of

Holy Name Catholic Church.

This past year, senior Tee Griscom began a similar project though Mobile Loaves and Fishes. He and Mr. Dick Klausner lead smaller groups of students on the third Saturday of each month on truck runs to deliver warm breakfasts to the homeless around downtown Nashville. Through their tireless work in the community, the senior class of 2010 has set a standard for leadership in future classes.

On exchange, Scotty and Ford storm Britannia

By Ryan Hill
Features Editor

As of last week, two MBA juniors had arrived safely in Great Britain where they will study at Eton College for a quarter. After weeks of application, preparation, and interviews, Ford Altenbern and Michael Peters are now thousands of miles and six time zones abroad.

For every decade of history MBA has, Eton has four times more. Founded in 1440 by King Henry VI, this school looks like the type of place where one would expect to find jousting and chivalry, not computers and printers. Our exchange program with the college, however, is fairly recent on the medieval campus' lengthy timeline. Begun in 1997 along with the Winchester exchange, MBA's partnership with Eton was the first of many programs that now allow us to travel to prestigious schools around the world.

At Eton, there are 25 houses each with 50 boys boarding in them. Grades range from F Block (8th) to B Block (12th). Each house has its own housemaster and dame, "who is like your mom," according to Ford. In addition to this pampering, every house has a chef, who cooks anywhere from one to four meals a day. Yes, four: breakfast, chambers, lunch, and supper. If you were to make a late midnight run to a British Taco Bell, you would actually be in for fifthmeal.

Unfortunately, no one seems to like the food much at all. Ford is fairly

enthusiastic, though, about the numerous combinations of toast and random food items that are so prevalent in England. Other culinary highlights include plenty of candy and Cokes with real sugar. Apparently this more natural version of America's favorite pop is much tastier.

Michael and Ford have classes six days a week which they attend in black tailcoats and collars that are "pretty restrictive," in Michael's opinion. Three of those days, however, are half-days. Even the regular days end at 2:00 p.m., at which point the guys move on to athletics until 4:30 p.m.

As for the classes themselves, they sound very similar to those at MBA. Juniors there take History, English, and Physics, just as many students here do, and some of them are already in their sixth year of Latin. Ouch. Michael even described his English teacher as exactly like Mr. Morrison in his disposition and teaching style. Maybe they are related.

Culturally, England is a lot like home. "Everyone here is really into America," Michael pointed out. "When we are hanging out, we often watch current American TV shows. Everyone loves Entourage." The Eton boarders even like our mainstream music, which must be painful for them.

Michael has already gotten involved with the Eton running program, which has actually just begun its cross country season as we begin training for track in America. In Europe, apparently, this winter timing is the norm. Last Saturday, Michael



A shot of historic Eton College, one of MBA's first exchange partners. Michael Peters and Ford Altenbern have now been abroad for several weeks and are excelling in cross country and theater, respectively. Photo courtesy of Google Images

ran in his first meet, and, if he continues to do well enough, he may qualify for British nationals. One country at a time, Michael!

Ford is pursuing his passions as well through theater (or "theatre") in the U.K. While he has been athletically involved in the mysterious Eton field game, melting snow has temporarily cancelled further play. Now, he is helping his house prepare for a drama competition and designing lights for the same piece. After this production, there are many plays for which he will be able to audition. He is also currently taking a class

called "Acting Funny," the purpose of which is fairly self-explanatory.

We have all been blessed to attend a school that offers such an amazing variety of trips like the one Michael and Ford are experiencing. Besides being an opportunity to break the monotony at home, studying abroad is a wonderful chance to see the world and learn a little more about one's neighbors on the other side of the Atlantic. Best wishes to both of these guys in their adventures in England over the next couple of months!

MBA joins area schools for annual MLK March

By Daniel White
Staff Writer

On a foggy, but warm Monday morning, about 70 students and faculty from MBA, Harpeth Hall, and Ensworth High School converged at MBA to participate in MBA's 3rd annual participation in the citywide MLK March.

MBA's participation in this March began because of the energy of African-American Studies Club founder and past president, Rasha Harvey '08.

This year we joined with students from Pearl-Cohn High School and Martin Luther King Magnet High School at Pearl Cohn in north Nashville to participate in the march. After an impromptu program by Pearl Cohn, MBA, and MLK students, students lined up two-by-two, just as people had done in the protests of the 50s and 60s, to march down to the historic Jefferson Street.

While on Jefferson Street, people socialized and enjoyed several activities,

such as the stepping out of the local Black fraternities and sororities, as well as the youth service inside Jefferson Street Missionary Baptist Church.

At promptly 11:00 am, everyone marched to the Gentry Center on the campus of Tennessee State University. In addition to honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., this March celebrates racial harmony, diversity, and equality. This year the March also celebrated the 50-year anniversary of Nashville's integration of the lunch counters.

It was good to see people from different ethnicities and backgrounds come together and march to celebrate their freedom.

Special thanks to those students and teachers in attendance, to Coach Klausner, Dr. Fuller, Coach McMahan, and Coach Bryant for driving the buses, and to Pearl-Cohn High School for graciously inviting us to their school.



Students from the Nashville area march past Jefferson Street Missionary Baptist Church on MLK Day. The annual march commemorates Dr. King's work and the civil rights movement in Nashville. Photo by Daniel White

Bell Ringer writers enjoy Student Reporters night

By Tom Markham
Staff Writer

Bell Ringer staff writers Tom Markham and Andrew Powell ventured downtown to the Sommet Center on January 18th to take part in the Nashville Predators Student Reporters Program. Neither of us had any clue what to expect going into the evening. Andrew had never even been to a Predators' game, so the night began with great anxiety.

We entered the arena through the media entrance, where we met PR representative Ginny Maduri, our guide for the night. She handed us media credentials (we felt very official with those), and we were on our way.

First stop was the media dinner, a pre-game meal for all the reporters, commentators, journalists, and others. Andrew and I kept quietly to ourselves during the dinner, envying the "cool table" with

included the likes of Predators' color commentators Pete Weber and Terry Crisp. We had the great pleasure of meeting Crispy himself later in the evening.

After dinner, we were taken on a tour through the Sommet Center and were surprised at the sheer magnitude of the place. It was huge! The highlight of the tour was getting to see the Zambonis up close and personal.

After the tour, we were taken to the press box. We learned a unique fact about the Sommet's press box: as the story goes, during the construction of the arena, the planners forgot to include a press box, so they had to tear a section of seats out of the stadium and place an open-air press box essentially in the middle of the seats at the last minute. Near the press box was the sound and video booth, in which a few technological



geniuses ran all the sound and video cues for the dead time during the game. They were in charge of such things as the song played during a timeout and the video clip shown on the Jumbotron. It was very interesting to see how complex the whole system is. It truly is a team effort to make sure the games run smoothly. As we learned, there are multiple such booths around the arena.

Watching the game from the press box, we got a glimpse of how reporters and journalists view a game, while at the same time being in the middle of the home crowd's atmosphere. The game itself was quite exciting. After falling down 3-0 early, the Predators mounted a serious comeback to tie the game 3-3 in the 3rd period, only to lose 4-3 on a heartbreaking Toronto Maple Leafs' goal with just a few minutes remaining. Andrew and I felt very official in the

press box, having our own personal space to take notes and watch the game from an excellent bird's eye view. Neither of us was too fond of the "no cheering" rule, but we were able to manage.

Upon the conclusion of the game, we were led to the post-game press conference, in which different journalists interviewed Coach Barry Trotz on the team's performance. While we didn't ask any questions ourselves, Andrew and I enjoyed being behind the scenes. We were also quite honored to be sitting directly behind sports columnist David Climer of *The Tennessean*.

The press conference concluded our night with the Predators, and Andrew and I went home feeling quite proud to have worked behind the scenes at a major professional sporting event. It was fascinating to witness firsthand all the work required to run an event on such a large scale, and we both thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the Student Reporters Program.

Ancient game proves modern distraction

By Jack Hallemann
Staff Writer

Now that we're a couple of weeks into what feels like the longest quarter of the year, I know what you are all thinking: "I'm running out of ways to procrastinate." At this point FML has gotten repetitive, Facebook is no longer exciting, and overuse of Chatroulette has made you cockeyed. If any of these describes you, I've got a solution. Try your hand at the ancient Chinese game called *Go*.

If you've ever seen the movie *A Beautiful Mind*, *Go* is the game John Nash

plays with black and white marbles. A game of strategy, *Go* is a two-player game where both players alternatively place marbles on a 19 by 19 grid. The purpose of the game is to surround as much vacant space on the board as possible.

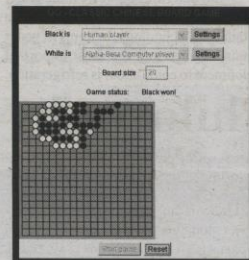
One player is able to capture another player's marbles by completely surrounding the marble or chain of marbles with his own marbles. Because it is most efficient to try to capture the corners of the board, most games of *Go* move from the corners, along the edges and eventually into the center as both players battle for territory. The game ends when both players pass on consecu-

tive turns. Scoring consists of counting up the number of empty points your stones surround.

If you are interested in *Go*, you can play a computer for free at <http://www.free-games.ws/games/boardgames/go/go.htm>.

Also, if you have an iPhone, there are multiple apps by which you can play the game. It's a great way to waste some time. It's very addicting but at times can be fairly frustrating.

Look for Andrew Powell to showcase this game during a meeting of the Logic/Riddle Club, if we can ever get a board.



If you like chess or sudoku, *Go* is another great logic-based game to play.

Mr. Smyth brings contemporary *a cappella* to the Hill

By Scott Blackwell
Staff Writer

Anyone in assembly a few weeks ago heard MBA's new *a cappella* group, Voicemale, perform the song "House of the Rising Sun." (Note: *A cappella* is derived from the Italian phrase *from the church*. The spelling most often has two *p*'s, but a single *p* is acceptable.) What many of you may not know, however, is that this is the first year that Mr. Matt Smyth, the teacher who founded this group, has worked at MBA.

Mr. Smyth, majoring in vocal performance in college, was hired last year to work in the music department. Before coming to MBA, Mr. Smyth taught at the University of Oklahoma for two years, having taught every choir there at some point by the time he left, and, before that, he worked at Carnegie Hall and at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City.

Mr. Smyth first found out about MBA when his uncle's son began attending here, and the accomplished educator ended up sending his resumé to Headmaster Brad Gioia. He was hired soon thereafter.

I recently got a chance to sit down with Mr. Smyth and find out more about him and the contemporary style *a cappella* music sung by Voicemale. According to Mr. Smyth, "*A cappella* music is any type

of music sung without accompaniment, but the type of music Voicemale sings is contemporary *a cappella*, which is basically music like rock and Top 40 songs that are widely recognized."

Mr. Smyth's interest in contemporary *a cappella* music began at a young age. As it turns out, when Mr. Smyth was in fourth grade, he sang pop songs at the Olympics, and in sixth grade he sang at the World Series. "I like the immediate interaction singers can have with the audience, because they recognize the music," he said.

At MBA, Mr. Smyth found that Mr. Gioia had been wanting some sort of choral group to sing contemporary music, so the new teacher volunteered to spearhead this development. In addition to the high school group, Mr. Smyth also started a junior school *a cappella* group, Failure to Comply, performing such songs as "She's Got a Way" by Billy Joel and "Man of Constant Sorrow" from *O Brother Where Art Thou*.

I then asked Mr. Smyth if he could give me some hints as to upcoming music Voicemale will be singing. He said he plans to have the group sing songs by Owl City, the Eagles, Queen, U2, Bon Jovi, and Journey, to name a few.

Concerning the amount of musical experience necessary to join Voicemale, Mr. Smyth stated, "None, really, you just have to



The members of Voicemale at work with Mr. Matt Smyth (second from right) during break. Mr. Smyth has begun both high school and junior school *a cappella* groups. Photo by Pat Killian

be on time and be dedicated to the group."

Composed of students from all grades, Voicemale practices in a laid-back manner. The group meets to practice every Tuesday and Thursday during break and the second half of fifth and sixth periods, as well as at 7:30 on Friday. To hear some of the music Voicemale sings, check out its website at

www.singmba.blogspot.com or just drop by during practice. The members are currently practicing a rendition of *Down by Jay Sean*, as well as Billy Joel's *And So It Goes*.

Voicemale's next concert is scheduled for mid-February, so expect to hear from them soon!

Not all water fountains are created equal

By Daniel Mace
Staff Imbiber

When faced with the conundrum of hydration, the wise student knows the oases of our fine campus. Contrary to popular belief, not all water fountains are created equal. While one can almost always receive hydration from any old fountain, only the select few fountains can truly refresh. With so many fountains on our campus from which to choose, an uneducated student can feel lost amidst the options. However, with a large majority of my own study halls spent researching, I shall apply a filter to the fluidity of your thoughts about the best water fountains to choose.

The water fountain itself carries a long and eventful history. The early Greeks and Romans developed fountains for bathing and drinking, using water transported to their cities in elaborate aqueducts. The simple styles quickly developed into elaborately adorned fountains, intended primarily for decoration. For the pragmatic student, however, the main quality desired is refreshment.

In determining refreshment capability, the most important aspect of a fountain is its technology. In terms of water fountain engineering, the most important development to come about is refrigeration.

Obviously, one could always drink from any water fountain, but then why not also drink from the toilet bowl? It is my firmly held belief that after thousands of years of fountain engineering, we should be allowed the luxury of chilled water. Here arises the key difference in MBA's fountains. Never, I repeat never waste your time on an outdoor fountain. Even if you manage to find a working outdoor fountain, the experience is nothing more than drinking tap water whilst staring into a bird lavatory.

Even once inside, the industrious student must often press on. Many factors still affect refreshment. One must always be vigilant against a splashy fountain. A lazy student can often find himself without refreshment and a soaked, wet face after settling for a fountain with a pressure similar to that of a fire hose. For instance, when in the upstairs of the Davis building, the sage hydrator always chooses the fountain on the right, avoiding the embarrassment facing anyone who dares use the one on the left.

In addition, the design of button is key as well. Always opt for the gentle bar to push over the small circle to press. Not only does this allow the weary to rest and only press with their legs, it also avoids the pain of juvenile arthritis after jamming one's thumb into the button design of old.

In summary, a few suggestions for



Matt Moynihan ('10) quenches his thirst on the first floor of Carter. The fountain's sleek design, steady flow, and refreshing chill make it an ideal destination for the thirsty studnet. Photo by Pat Killian

those still perplexed by the myriad of hydration options on our campus. Surprisingly, the water fountain at the end of the bottom floor of Wallace is a cool surprise to its accompanying, scary bathroom. In addition, most fountains in the Carter building are cool and splash-free, due to their contem-

porary design. Finally, although I offer no guarantees, the Massey Building is rumored to house a secret fountain of youth.

No matter which you find to be your favorite, enjoy and take care of your fountain. After all, friends, the difference is always drinkability.

Philosophy Club delves into Bergsonism

By Thomas Moore
Freelance Philosopher

One of the most overlooked philosophers today is undoubtedly the French metaphysician, Henri Bergson (1859-1941). During his lifetime, he achieved an almost cult-like status, and, at the height of his career, his lectures attracted a motley audience, including both society ladies and famous poets. Early in his academic career, Bergson displayed signs of brilliance, most notably in his winning a prestigious first

prize in mathematics in 1877. Soon after this success, Bergson opted to direct his efforts towards the humanities, a decision which led his math teacher famously to lament, "You could have been a mathematician; you will be a mere philosopher."

After graduating from the École Normale in 1881, Bergson continued his research and first attained international prestige with the publication in 1903 of a long article entitled "An Introduction to Metaphysics." This article, on which I will focus primarily, quickly became essential reading for understanding Bergson's life work and the influence of "Bergsonism." Not only does his article represent an important milestone in the history of philosophy, but it also influenced greatly the theories of the Imagist poets, led by Ezra Pound and T.S. Eliot, both of whom attended lectures by Bergson. For this reason, philosophers as well as literary critics should pay special attention to Bergson's work.

Writing out of step with popular thought, Bergson sought not to instruct the student in classical metaphysics, but to introduce a complete reversal of the way in which most people had thought about metaphysics. Reacting against Neo-Kantian skepticism, Bergson sought to restore the possibility of absolute knowledge. To accomplish this goal, he noted, a reevaluation of human thought was in order. Much of Bergson's philosophy is not easy to categorize, because, for him, philosophy did not consist in the division of schools and in the taking of sides. He strived to reach a universality in his work.

For Bergson, no intellectual pursuit was disinterested. He perceived that human beings, in thinking, rarely aim at knowledge for knowledge's sake, and too often seek knowledge to draw profit or to satisfy some

self-interest. He also believed that human nature requires a division of ideas into categories and classes to make these ideas more easily accessible. In this division of thought, Bergson suggested, an application of concepts to objects exists that, while useful in the practical realm, is futile in a world of philosophical endeavor and only serves "to install contradiction in the very heart of the object." In this way, either philosophy is impossible and should not be attempted, or a reversal, a placing of oneself directly within the object itself, is necessary.

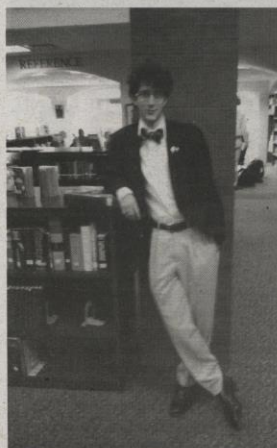
There are two ways to know an object: we can either move around the object or we can enter into it. The former method is flawed, according to Bergson, because it is dependent on a relative point of view. One must use the second method, when possible, if one desires to attain the absolute. By placing oneself within the object through an effort of imagination, one can avoid symbolic and conceptual representations of the object which can only lead to an incomplete view of the object as a whole and to contradiction. For example, when one reads a story, description, or history, one necessarily receives a relative understanding of the subject rather than an absolute, which can only be achieved through direct interaction. Bergson states that the original, not its translation, is perfect, "by being perfectly what it is." Analysis, when one uses categorization to describe an object, reduces the object to concepts already known, to ideas common both to it and other objects. Analysis itself is, therefore, a mere translation. Instead, we should avoid passing from concepts to things, but from things to concepts.

The object that we can most immediately inhabit is the self. The inner life exhibits a variety of qualities that cannot be represented by symbols. Bergson defines the

self in terms of two apparently contradictory notions: duration and multiplicity. The duration of time and the multiplicity of experience overlap to form the complete, absolute self. Bergson uses a ball of yarn to describe this process. As the yarn unravels, the past, stretching out behind us, grows larger, while the future, tightly coiled, becomes smaller. This is the duration of time. The image is incomplete, however, because it fails to represent any multiplicity of experience. Any two points on the piece of yarn are identical. Bergson posits that no moment is identical to another, because new experiences are always added to older ones, and the past for the current moment is larger than it was for the previous.

Bergson uses the color spectrum to describe multiplicity of experience. Like experience, the spectrum includes various nuances, shades of color, juxtaposed one next to the other. It is important to see the entire spectrum, for, Bergson suggests, if we could see only orange, we would "sense ourselves caught" between red and yellow. We can, however, perceive the variety of shades present in orange through an effort of intuition. Bergson claims that this intuitive experience is essential in the integrating of an infinity of durations. Only by making such an effort, does Bergson believe we can achieve an accurate, absolute experience of an object, and avoid the limitations of points of view.

Bergson's life work presents an interesting philosophy that can hardly be detailed in the confines of this article. In the coming weeks, I intend to present the works and ideas of Henri Bergson to MBA's Philosophy Club. If this article has whetted your appetite, please attend that meeting for further enlightening discussion.



Thomas Moore ('10) will lead a discussion on Bergson at the Philosophy Club's next meeting. He also looks good in a bowtie. Photo by Pat Killian

Academy Awards promise suspense, entertainment

By **Trey Howard**
Staff Writer

The 67th annual Golden Globe Awards show aired on Sunday, January 17th. Ricky Gervais was outstanding as the host, offering hilarious banter throughout the show and unafraid to go after the big-name celebrities. His quip when introducing Mel Gibson was especially memorable.

Avatar took top prize in the dramatic category, and *The Hangover* won Best Picture-Comedy. Of the male leads, the winners were Jeff Bridges in Drama for *Crazy Heart* and Robert Downey Jr. in Comedy for *Sherlock Holmes*. For the female lead categories, Sandra Bullock won in Drama for *The Blind Side*, and Meryl Streep won in Comedy for *Julie and Julia*. In supporting categories, Monique won for *Precious* and Christof Waltz for *Inglorious Bastards*.

James Cameron won Best Director and commended his ex-wife, Kathryn Bigelow, who was his biggest competition for the prize with her acclaimed *The Hurt Locker*. He also took time to speak na'vi, a language he created for *Avatar*.

Golden Globes are always fun, but



Trey Howard ('10) believes an upset might be in store for this year's Best Picture. Photo by Pat Killian

the Academy Awards are the main event. This year's show marks the 82nd annual Academy Awards show, and it will be hosted by veteran Steve Martin and rookie Alec Baldwin.

The Golden Globes serve as a good precursor to the Oscars, but some categories are still pretty close. This year's awards will include ten nominations for Best Picture for the first time since 1939, five nominations being the normal format between 1939 and this year.

More nominations could affect

the winner by spreading out the votes, but essentially the category will come down to *Avatar*, *The Hurt Locker*, and *Up in the Air*. *Precious* might have a chance, but a very slim one. *Avatar* has a lot of momentum, with its astronomical earnings and Golden Globe awards, and it will be the favorite going into the show. In the Best Director category, no woman has ever won, and only three women in the eighty-one year history of the awards have even been nominated. That being said, Kathryn Bigelow for *The Hurt Locker* has a strong chance of winning it. James Cameron is probably the favorite here, but with three assorted Oscars already, the Academy might vote Bigelow.

The acting categories look locked up at this point, but the Oscars usually surprise in at least one category every year. Monique and Christof Waltz look like sure bets for their supporting work in two of the year's most critically lauded films. Best Actress is the tightest category, with both Meryl Streep and Sandra Bullock receiving numerous awards already. Streep is a legend, and she has the record for most Oscar nominations of any actor all-time. She has won two, but with her last victory being

twenty-seven years ago, she could very well win this year. A nomination this year would be Bullock's first. She notably turned down a role in Clint Eastwood's *Million Dollar Baby*. Although the race is extremely close, Bullock may be more likely to win since her performance was in a drama rather than a comedy like Streep.

The Best Actor category, even with all its big names, isn't very close at all. Jeff Bridges has been nominated four times prior to this year, but has never won. Bridges is well respected, and with a career spanning almost forty years, he is very heavily favored to take the award. Freeman is a distant second for *Invictus*, and Clooney a distant third for *Up in the Air*.

The host, Steve Martin, has done a great job hosting in the past, and with Baldwin's help, this year's show should be both entertaining and suspenseful.



We'd write a real review if we had more money

By **Richard Wall and Thompson Barr**
Food Review Team, Co-Founders

Have you ever eaten a cuttlefish? Well, neither has the Montgomery Bell Academy Food Review Team, but we did eat hamburgers at Brown's Diner. Right now you are probably asking yourselves, "Well, guys, how was it? How was the atmosphere? Do you seriously call yourselves the 'Food Review Team'?" Well, the answer to all of these questions is simple: yes.

Brown's Diner

On the surface, Brown's Diner seems a bit rough around the edges. Of course, if this deters you from eating here, you are a pusillanimous chortle. So, if you are looking for some fancy dining experience, then this is not your place. Located at 2102 Blair Blvd - you can find it across the street from the Harris Teeter on 21st Avenue - this converted-trailer-like eatery is basically in the parking lot of Friedman's Army Navy Surplus store.

R-Dubs and **T-Barr** entered said diner one evening and discovered that Brown's Diner is not an evening food place. It is perfect for lunch, but don't go at night, especially when it is full. There was only one waitress serving the place, which was full. So, it took forever. You can get a delicious hamburger for around 2 to 3 dollars. Unfortunately, while your wallet stays full, your stomach remains quite empty. To be honest, one hamburger at Five Guys is equal to two at Brown's in price and size.

There are only two main problems with Brown's: first, they have no pie. They call themselves a diner, and they lack pie? That is akin to calling a microwave an LCD TV, or saying that Curt Schilling is a Yankees fan.

The second huge problem is that they only serve Pepsi products. To the Food Review Team such a beverage selection

is about as outrageous as Ronald Reagan supporting France in the upcoming Olympic Games. If you can deal with Pepsi, however, you'll be fine.

So, the final verdict? Brown's is the ultimate diner experience minus the pie. The lack of Coke was as depressing as Nicholas Cage's acting in *Ghost Rider*, but not nearly as hilarious, and Brown's Diner is best experienced at lunchtime. The Food Review Team has granted Brown's 7.001 out of 10. **Kevin Carr's** world-famous Lineman Rating of Brown's came to 8 out of 10 pies, despite the fact that there were none. When questioned about his take on the restaurant, Samuel L. Jackson said, "I... [really]... love... Brown's... diner." Pretty elucidatory, eh?

Alright, if you have read our articles from last semester, you are now expecting us to go on some awesome adventure. Well, the Food Review Team never disappoints.

Bellevue Mall

9.65/10! We highly recommend.

The Nashville Zoo at Grassmere

The Food Review Team did not go into the Zoo. It costs something like 13 or 14 dollars per person, which seemed silly. So, instead, we went to Captain D's. Captain D's is pretty good. In an earlier article, we said that Blackstone Brewery's Fish was several steps above Captain D's, but if you are money-tight, Captain D's is a great, cheap, and surprisingly filling meal of fish. The Fish platter has a lot of food on it and costs around 5 dollars - a great bargain and less expensive than going to the Zoo.

So ends the latest review from your beloved Food Reviewers, dear reader. They are a rag-tag group of champions, this bunch, and they are sure to review even more places - places, dear reader, which will feel either the thrill of a victorious rating in this our most esteemed gazette,



(Top) Brown's Diner nearly compensates for its lack of pie and Coca-Cola with a most excellent hamburger. Photo courtesy of Google Images (Bottom) No, this fish was not found at the zoo. It would have been more expensive. Photo by Richard Wall

or the utter and undeniably embarrassing bereavement of a bad review, like the condemnatory striking of Zeus' gavel in a most incredibly elaborate and celestial court of law on Mount Olympus itself. So, Dear Reader, do visit Brown's Diner and Captain

D's, and perhaps you will hear the music of victory, a music heavy with cellos at a rapid staccato.

In all seriousness, these places are delicious lunch stops, and they won't hurt your wallet either.

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A. Joel Gluck DDS, MS

Board Certified Orthodontist

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Nashville's Home for Video Game Tournaments

* Average regular movie ticket, popcorn and drink at a sampling of theaters in Nashville, Tennessee.

Basketball team off to an impressive start

By Kyle Brantley
Sports Editor

MBA is on an unprecedented roll in basketball as of late, bouncing to an impressive 14-2 record, (5-0) currently. I've been going to this prestigious institution for six years now, and I've never seen so much talent on the basketball court. Of course, the Class of 2010 is leading the way once again.

This senior class is led by leading scorer Holden Mobley, assist addict Tyler Paslick, boy wizard Michael Seitz, and the brutal beast Brad Bars. However, what separates this team from past squads is the depth of the sensational sophomore class. David Howard, Austin Blackwell, and Aaron Simonis are fixtures in Coach Anglin's rotation, while the freakishly tall Eliot Watts gets more playing time as he learns how to use his height to advantage.

When one thinks about the power-

house sports of MBA, the first names that usually pop into one's head are football, riflery, and ultimate frisbee. The bball squad is working harder than ever to nudge their way into that exclusive group and receive national attention. A large step toward that goal was taken when they trounced North Myrtle Beach, the Potomac School, and Cleveland (TN) en route to winning the Rock Holiday Classic in Orlando, FL. Historically, MBA has not performed well outside the state borders, so that championship victory is a big step in the right direction.

The Big Red are currently ranked 26th in the state by *maxpreps.com*, a ranking they believe can be improved. The only Division II foes that are ranked ahead of them are Ensworth (24th) and Christian Brothers (13th). Michael Seitz informed me that even though MBA's record is incredible, the team hasn't even come close to reaching its full potential.

The whole MBA community will



David Howard ('12) shoots a free throw while teammate Michael Seitz ('10) looks on. The team is currently on a 5-0 run. Photo courtesy of Mr. Jamie Tillman

surely be looking forward to seeing this team soar to new heights and make the deepest postseason run this school has seen since the state championship victory in 2001.

CDR Carr lets bowling success speak for itself

By George Swenson
Staff Writer

Commander Carr began coaching the MBA bowling team in 1999 and is the only coach the Big Red bowling has had. Mr. Tillman started the bowling program, and Commander Carr calls himself "his red-headed step child."

He loves bowling because it requires skill, strength, and mental discipline. In addition, the fact that there is a snack bar and that guys can eat while practicing is the reason that bowling has become so popular at MBA.

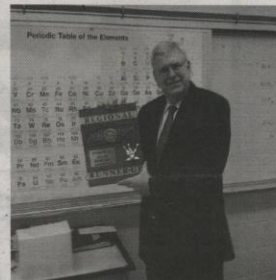
The commander's favorite bowling memories include Brian Swenson's ('09) throwing his ball down the walkway instead of the bowling lane in Bobby Knight fashion and the disappointing state finals in 2002, when the team forfeited a huge lead to Christian Brothers and eventually lost to them.

When asked about the team in general, Commander Carr said "We quietly go about our business of winning games, becoming region champions, and qualifying for the state tournament every year without boasting about our domination. We do our talking on the lanes, and teams fear the Big Red

bowling team."

He and the team look to win the upcoming state tournament at the end of January and know that they have a great shot to do so. Commander Carr is honored to coach the finest young men from MBA and will be sad when the time comes to hang up his bowling shoes.

(Right) Commander Carr holds one of the bowling team's many Regional championship plaques. The chem teacher is the only coach in the team's storied history. Photo by Pat Killian



Senior leadership pulls wrestling through injuries

By Alex Apple
Sports Editor

Montgomery Bell Academy wrestlers have had a solid season to date. At the beginning of the season, coaches knew they had a good mix of senior wrestlers to lead the team and underclassmen to contribute as well.

The season started out with a tough loss to Ravenwood, with returning state runner-up Daniel Todd absent from the team. The squad then finished with a strong 4th-place showing at the Black Horse invitational in Memphis, TN, where John Mark Bellet and Mark Simpson both took second-place medals.

The wrestlers then went 6-3 in their next nine matches and finished 4th over Winter Break in the Father Ryan duals. Seniors Daniel Todd and John Donlon both wrestled well, along with Mark Simpson and John Mark Bellet.

The team has shown its depth, as several wrestlers have missed matches for injury or sickness. Recently, senior Tommy Harless broke his hand after a match, but senior Jonathan Golab has stepped in his place, and Kevin Murphy has had success in the mid-upper weight classes as well. The team's total record is 9-4, but the most important wrestling remains in front of them, with up-coming matches versus



Daniel Todd ('10), last year's state runner-up, takes down yet another opponent. John Mark Bellet, Cayce Ortale, Ian Sharbel, and Mark Simpson have also contributed greatly to the team's success. Photo courtesy of Mr. Jamie Tillman

Father Ryan, a match in Atlanta, and then the state duals.

The team's most consistently success-

ful wrestlers have been Daniel Todd, Ian Sharbel, John Mark Bellet, Mark Simpson, and Cayce Ortale. The team will need many

wrestlers across the board to step up as they head to the state tournament.

Most memorable games of decade recounted

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2008. However, in the second game of the season, this team showed everyone it was for real. MBA traveled to Cincinnati, OH, for the Kirk Herbstreit Challenge, and physically dominated traditional power Moeller High School in the Bengal's Paul Brown Stadium.

7. MBA 42, BA 41 (2009)

Following an emotional win at Ensworth a week earlier, MBA went to BA trying to avenge another regular season loss. After a hard-fought game at Carlton Flatt Field, the contest was tied up at 28 at the end of regulation. In OT, each team scored twice, but a missed PAT by the Eagles sent MBA to the State Championship. Big Red faithfuls rushed the opponent's field for a second straight week.

6. MBA 8, BA 7 (2000)

A nationally-ranked MBA team dominated each of its opponents leading up to the Clinic Bowl, and was therefore expected to handle Brentwood Academy in the state championship. The Big Red was down 7-0 at halftime, however, and was in for a fight in the 2nd half. After taking an 8-7 lead in the 4th quarter, BA missed a last second field goal and MBA won its third consecutive gold ball.

5. MBA 17, Trinity 13 (2003)

Ranked third in the nation among high school teams, Trinity rolled into Nashville

for the season opener. MBA held future Louisville star and NFL quarterback Brian Brohm to just 13 points in a close game. This nail-biter also started the home-and-home series between the two schools.

4. MBA 38, BA 14 (2003)

The 2003 team arguably had more talent than any other MBA team of the decade. They beat the third-ranked team in the nation and blew out Mississippi powerhouse Southaven. However, an overtime loss at BA got the team fired up, and it was redemption time in the Clinic Bowl a few weeks later. MBA left no doubt as to who was the better team, winning by 24 points. The Big Red finished #15 in the Final USA Today Super 25 Rankings.

3. MBA 27, BA 11 (2002)

After a dismal 4-4 start to the 2002 season, including a 31-6 loss to BA, people were disappointed in first-year coach Jeff Rutledge and his team. Late in the season, the seniors turned up the heat, snuck into the playoffs, and scratched their way to the state title game. The Big Red squad knocked off the Eagles, 27-11, in MBA's most unlikely state championship ever.

2. MBA 27, Ensworth 24 (2009)

You know the story. Ensworth is at home. Ensworth won the first meeting 50-21. Ensworth has D-1 prospects all over the field. Ensworth can't wait to play MUS



The scoreboard says it all. MBA avenges its regular season loss to Ensworth with an Andrew Fletcher field goal. The game ranks behind only the 2007 state championship, which closed an undefeated season, in the last decade of football.

in the State Championship game—not so fast, my friends. MBA pulled one of, if not the biggest upset in school history against its new rival. An eight-minute drive in the fourth quarter led to Andrew Fletcher's game winning kick and an unforgettable win for the Big Red.

1. MBA 12, BA 0 (2007)

MBA went 4-6 and missed the play-

offs in 2006, and many people had low expectations for 2007. But Coach McGugin and his team were motivated to prove people wrong, and things could not have gone better. With a high-powered offense and a lockdown defense that produced six shutouts, this was one of the best teams in MBA's history. The perfect season culminated with a commanding 12-0 victory over BA in the State Championship, and MBA earned its most wins ever for a single season.

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Stan vs. Wild: Coming to a garage near you

By Jamie Joyce
Local Music Columnist

For those of you who thought the local "private-school music scene" died after class of 2009's In Case of Fire graduated, think again. With a respectable fan base that's growing everyday, Stan vs. Wild has emerged with an explosive bang onto the local "play-in-my-garage" party circuit that has been dominating the weekends for the past few months.

Since forming, the band of talented musicians (MBA's own Tom Markham, Carter Callaway, and John Wyse joined by Ensworth's Ford Garrard) has been increasing its notoriety by playing shows and appearing regularly on the Facebook newsfeed of just about everyone. Recently, the band released their new single "Light Years," its most mature work to date.

While at first Stan had been writing songs with a more Blink-182, poppy feel, like "Nick Crashed His Car" and "Jack Be Nimble," "Light Years" dark and brooding chord progression suggests influences such as Interpol and Bloc Party. Although "Light Years" is currently only at the demo stage, it still provides the listener with a preview of just how much potential this band has.

Recently, I caught up with frontman Tom Markham, an MBA junior whose powerful-yet-subtle vocals are definitely one of "Light Years" strongest points.

Bell Ringer: So exactly how did Stan vs. Wild get started?

Tom Markham: Well, it originally started out when Carter and I always used to write weird little songs, like where I would play piano and he would play the electric guitar, and it was like the most terrible com-

bination of music ever. Then Ford started taking bass lessons, and he got pretty good, and I was like, "Wait a minute, why don't we try starting this band thing?" And so I knew John Wyse played the drums, and he was really good. So we just met one day in Ford's basement and started to jam.

BR: A lot of what makes a band's identity is in their name. How did you come up with Stan vs. Wild?

TM: Pretty much anyone who has been to MBA in recent years knows of a kid named Stan Rozar, who was the craziest, most confusing, yet hilarious kid I've ever met. So one night, it was before we were playing a show actually, we were in Ford's basement. We were hyped on energy drinks and candy and stuff and watching the Discovery Channel. Then Bear Grylls (from Discovery channel's "Man vs. Wild") comes on, and we were thinking that night we needed a new band name. We were called The Sparks before, but that was a terrible name, and there was already another band called The Sparks. So, we see Bear Grylls on the TV, and Carter was like, "Whoa, what if we gave Stan Rozar six Red Bull's and pushed him into the woods with a video camera?" And then Ford was like, "Stan vs. Wild." It was kind of an epiphany.

BR: You've recently released "Light Years." Tell us about it.

TM: A lot of the times the way we write our songs is pretty weird. Ford and I will get a riff going, and then we'll try to build the structure of the song around that, and then we just teach it to Dubs [John Wyse] and Carter. This time, Ford called me in the middle of the week telling me that he and his guitar teacher had worked out an awesome riff. So, we just started rolling with it, and I just started singing lyrics off

the top of my head. Then we played it with the entire band, and it was the first time we played all the way through, and it sounded really cool. When we had to write lyrics to it, it ended being about the movie *Toy Story*, hence the name "Light Years." It's actually interesting because on this one Carter plays bass and Ford plays guitar.

BR: Recently, you've made a name for yourself as the "MBA party-band," if you will. How did you get to the place where you've gotten people to come to your shows and make it a real event?

TM: That's a good question. I'm not really sure how. We first started out just playing shows in Ford's basement and we would invite about sixty people and maybe twenty-five would show up. I think the biggest thing was that we got bolder with our marketing scheme. Dubs would go and talk to the "cool kids" and try to get them to show up, and we would all basically just promote whenever possible. The most recent show was great because we got such a huge turnout from all these different schools. It's been gradual but all of a sudden people

know who Stan vs. Wild is.

BR: Are you currently writing any new material?

TM: Yes. We hope to have two new originals by our next show. One thing that's cool about our songwriting is that everything is so different. We haven't nailed down one specific, defining sound yet, so we can do whatever we want with it. We always have little bits and pieces of song sketches.

BR: Does SvsW have any goals for the future?

TM: Yeah. We're hoping to get some actual recording done sometime soon. There's this guy who goes to my church who's in the music industry, and he supposedly has a friend who's a producer. Also, Ford has this obscure cousin who's in a Widespread Panic cover band, so that might go somewhere. But our most immediate goal is getting an offer to play at a legit venue.

BR: Any shows coming up soon?

TM: Not as of yet. We're still looking for a place to play. I don't mean to drop hints or anything but... yeah (laughs).



SvsW, a junior band on the rise, rocks Powell's House of Disco.



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